

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 142123

71

ORIGIN AID-49

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-07 IO-09 SNM-01 INR-10 IGA-02 EA-07

H-01 L-03 SCI-01 PRS-01 /092 R

66632DRAFTED BY SA/CCD:UEA:ABJACOBS

APPROVED BY SA/CCD:FCOLLINSJR

SA/L:MWISEMAN SUBS

SA/VN:RBROWN SUBS

L/CLS:TGILLILLAND SUBS

SA/T:JKRULFELD SUBS

DAA/SA:GAZIMMERLY SUBS

GC/SA:HMORRIS INFO

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION 7W ACTION SAB INFO AAID 1N 1 EXSEC 1 NAR 1

OL 1 PA 2 AG 1 AUD 3 MIS 2 GC1 GCFLD 1 GCSA 1 OST 1 NSC 5 CLASS 1 49P

----- 001816

P P 192145Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142123

AIDAC

EO 11652 ADS, DECLAS 7/19/74

CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

SUBJ: REPORTED USE OF HERBICIDES/DEFOLIANTS IN NARCOTICS

SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

1. WE HAVE JULY 13 LETTER FROM SENATOR KENNEDY TO DR HANNAH
REQUESTING INFORMATION ON ABOVE SUBJECT. TEXT FOLLOWS:

DISTURBING REPORTS, WHICH I HOPE YOU MIGHT CLARIFY, HAVE COME
TO MY ATTENTION REGARDING THE METHODS REPORTEDLY BEING EMPLOYED
BY US NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION TEAMS CURRENTLY OPERATING IN SOUTHEAST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 142123

ASIA.

I BELIEVE EVERY MEMBER OF CONGRESS IS IN SYMPATHY WITH AND SUPPORTS THE PURPOSES OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN BY OUR GOVT AND FUNDED THROUGH THE AGENCY FOR INT'L DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, REPORTS FROM THE FIELD RECEIVED BY MY OFFICE SUGGESTS THAT ONE OF THE TECHNIQUES CURRENTLY BEING USED TO HALT THE PRODUCTION

OF OPIUM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ESPECIALLY IN LAOS, IS AIRBORNE DEFOLIATION.

AS YOU KNOW, THE USE OF DEFOLIANTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM WAS BANNED IN 1971 AFTER SERIOUS QUESTIONS WERE RAISED AS TO THE HEALTH HAZARDS TO CIVILIANS, PARTICULARLY CHILDREN. YET THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO ME SUGGESTS THAT WITHIN THE LAST 4 MONTHS, USAID NARCOTICS CONTROL TEAMS HAVE USED OV-10 AIRCRAFT TO SPRAY MEO REGIONS OF LAOS, RESULTING IN THE DEATHS OF SEVERAL CHILDREN.

BECAUSE OF THESE REPORTS, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. ARE DEFOLIANTS OR HERBICIDES NOW EMPLOYED BY THE US NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION TEAMS OPERATING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, PARTICULARLY LAOS AND THAILAND? IS THIS DEFOLIATION APPLIED FROM THE AIR BY AMERICAN AIRCRAFT, MILITARY OR CIVILIAN? IF SO, WHAT KIND OF DEFOLIANTS OR HERBICIDES ARE BEING USED, HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN USED, WHERE, AND BY WHOSE AUTHORIZATION?
2. HAVE THERE BEEN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATIONS BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN THE FIELD OF REPORTS OF HEALTH HAZARDS OR DEATHS RESULTING FROM THIS DEFOLIATION? WHAT RULES AND SAFEGUARDS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO AVOID CONTAMINATING OR IN ANY MANNER AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS?

THAN YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. (END OF TEXT)

2. WOULD APPRECIATE POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED BY SENATOR KENNEDY IN ORDER PREPARE FACTUAL REPLY. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, NARCOTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE142123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: AS 19740719 COLLINS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730722/aaaaapzc.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED USE OF HERBICIDES/DEFOLIANTS IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PROGRAM
TAGS: SNAR, XC
To: VIENTIANE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005